

Report to the Community 2010

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) recently released our "[Report to the Community 2010](#)." As the report illustrates, your public libraries are great community resources -- we offer free print and online materials, programs and services as well as reference assistance provided by professionally trained staff. Although we face challenges as a result of the County's budget situation, there are many notable achievements. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read this informative report.

FY12 Budget

Approval of the FY12 Budget will take place according to the following schedule:

- The County Executive will transmit his Recommended FY12 Operating Budget to the Council on March 15, 2011.
- The Council conducts public hearings on the operating budget in early April.
- The Council Health and Human Services Committee will conduct a worksession for the library budget, typically in mid-late April.
- The Full Council will hold a worksession on our budget in May, and make final decisions on the entire budget just before Memorial Day.
- The FY12 budget will be implemented on July 1, 2011.

Further information from the County Executive's Office about the budget process, including how to leave comments about the budget, can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/budget>. Further information about the County Council's budget process can be found at the County Council website, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council> or call 240-777-7900.

Recent Changes in Library Policy

Recent changes in library policy that require library users to place cell phones on vibrate while in the library and restrict food and drinks (other than water) in the library have received positive feedback from library customers. The policies are intended to help MCPL maintain a cooperative environment within branches and maintain the cleanliness of library buildings. We appreciate the cooperation of our customers in adhering to these policies and their support in helping us maintain a welcoming environment for all library users.

Read Across America/Read Across Maryland

Read Across Maryland is based on **Read Across America**, an annual reading motivation and awareness program of the National Education Association that invites every child in every community to celebrate reading. **Read Across Maryland** seeks to extend the reading focus by creating "Read 30 Minutes for 30 Days," an initiative designed to engage students and families in reading during the month of March. Everyone is encouraged to spend time reading to children so that children are inspired to read themselves.

Our story times for babies and preschoolers and book clubs for elementary age children are designed to help develop reading skills and promote a love of reading and books. I invite you to visit our libraries and

participate in a story time program or encourage your child to join one of our age appropriate book clubs for children. Encourage the children in your life to develop a lifetime reading habit!

Women's History Month 2011

"Our Strength is our History" is this year's theme for Women's History Month. A special program with guest speaker, Maryland State Senator, Jennie Forehand, takes place on Saturday, March 12 at the Silver Spring Library. The program, presented by the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, will feature a panel discussion about women who have inspired other women to reach new heights in the fields of politics, law, science and math, civil and human rights, religion, entrepreneurship, and education.

Teen Tech Week – March 6-10, "Mix and Mash @ your library"

Do you need help with downloading e-materials to your iPhone, Nook, iPod or iPad? In observance of Teen Tech Week, members of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) will be on hand at the Bethesda Library on Saturday, March 12 from 1-3 p.m. to help customers learn how to utilize the MCPL e-library materials from home. Remember to bring your personal e-readers. Sessions are informal and registration is not required.

Teen Tech Week, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association is celebrated under the general theme, "Get Connected @ your library," and encourages teens to use libraries' non-print resources for education and recreation.

Upcoming Live Performances for All Ages

Bring the entire family to the Marilyn J. Praisner Library on the evening of Thursday, March 10 (7 p.m.) for a fun evening in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The program will feature the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dancing.

The Washington National Opera comes to MCPL with performances of "Madama Butterfly" at Quince Orchard Library and "Hansel and Gretel" at the Rockville Memorial and Marilyn J. Praisner libraries. These performances introduce children to other cultures through music and costumes and offer a glimpse of the opera to young audiences.

MCPL is celebrating Jazz Appreciation Month with a series of jazz programs each Saturday in the month of April. Performers include the Paul Carr Jazz Quintet; the Unified Jazz Ensemble; the Jolley Brothers, Nathan and Noble Jolley, Jr., and students from the Paul Carr Jazz Academy of Music.

April 29 marks the birthday of the incomparable Duke Ellington. "Conversations about Jazz" (April 9, Kensington Park Library) is a celebration of the life and works of this remarkable artist. The program features John Fass Morton, author of "Backstory in Blue: Ellington at Newport '56;" Patricia Willard, Ellington's longtime publicist and member of the Duke Ellington Society; and Rusty Hassan, WPFW "Night Jazz" host.

For more information about these and other library events, please visit our website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

A Word of Appreciation

Over the past several months, the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. and local Friends chapters have contributed funds for the purchase of library materials. I want to thank the Friends for their continued support and advocacy especially during these challenging fiscal times.

B. Parker Hamilton
Director